

TIME
INCORPORATED

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SPORTS ILLUSTRATED
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HOUSE & HOME

SHELL BUILDING
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Tuesday

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Since you probably don't see
Time, I am enclosing a tearsheet
of the back contamination story about
which I called you three weeks ago.
Here we have, in the inadvertent quotes
around the word blacksmith, the
latest example of what is to me
the Lederberg jinx.

This jinx goes back several
years and covers most of the varieties
of error and idiocy that can
infect a story. For instance there
was that cold day in Chicago
when, at work with our best photographer
on experimental pictures of computer parts, I

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reluctantly assigned a riot-style
photographer to go to Madison to
take your picture. Subsequently,
as luck would have it, I was the
anonymous baronnet behind
other annoyances which reached
you courtesy of Time & Life.
I had hoped, foolishly, I now know,
to break the jinx by a good
cytobiology story that would have
cost you no more than five
minutes of distraction, on the phone.

So the jinx goes on. I regret
it because the various Lederberg
papers I have read gave me
considerable pleasure.

Respectfully,

George Barri
Time-Life-Fortune
Museum Chief.